

Bus Shelter Design: Initial Concepts

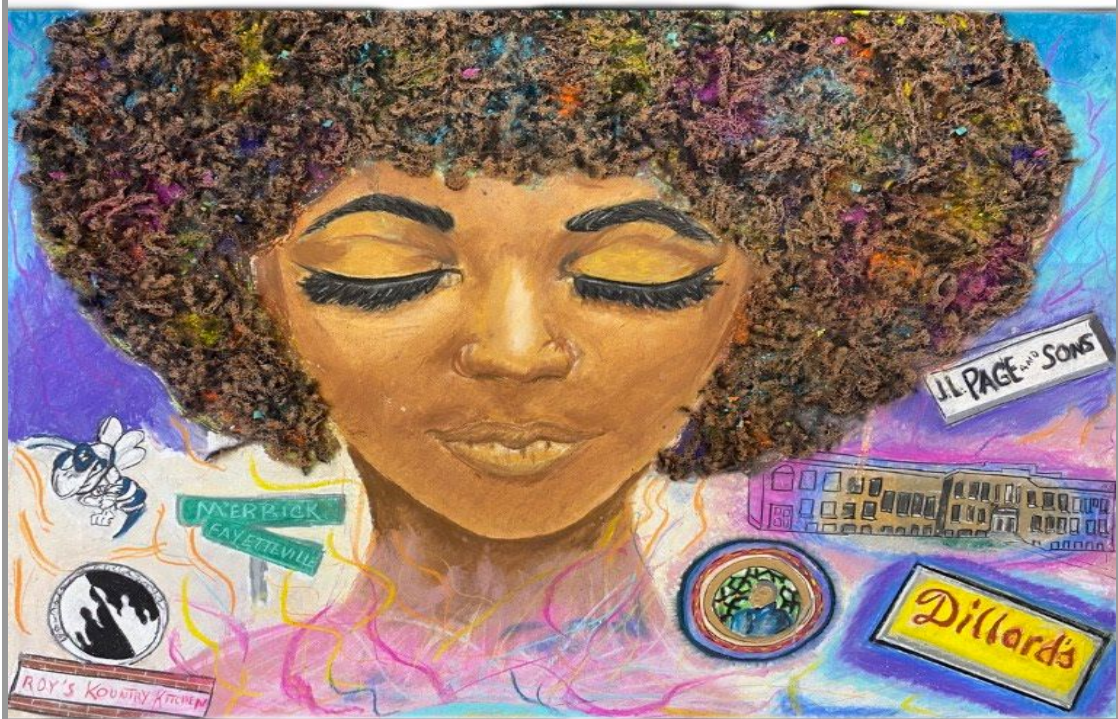
The concepts here took life from reflections of fond memories of a Carolina era that once was. As a Durham native, I wanted to highlight the command and influence of the Bull City's community members. Even Durham's flag was considered; especially the significance of the seven stars artfully positioned in the Blue area of the flag. Also considered were common misconceptions of Durham's community members. I wanted to be sure to create art that represents the significance of Durham's youth, recreation centers and even community housing; they are equally as important as the city's landmarks.

The ideas I've gathered from community engagement are based on resilience, potential, and self-worth. These concepts accentuate self-reflection. By visiting the bus shelter sites, talking with bus riders, and holding a community event, I was able to use common themes and images from art and surveys completed by community members. Participants of the My Durham youth program exchanged creative ideas with community members of all ages and were quite helpful in generating a well of solid ideas.

Some community members were allowed to create their very own personal version of their own bus stop artwork. Now, your feedback regarding adjustments, additions, or overhauls—should your creativity prompt it—is highly anticipated. Feel free to use the email address listed below to share your ideas or pose *any* questions/concerns related to these concepts.

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Bus Stop # 6256 - Fayetteville at Cook Road (across from Hillside)

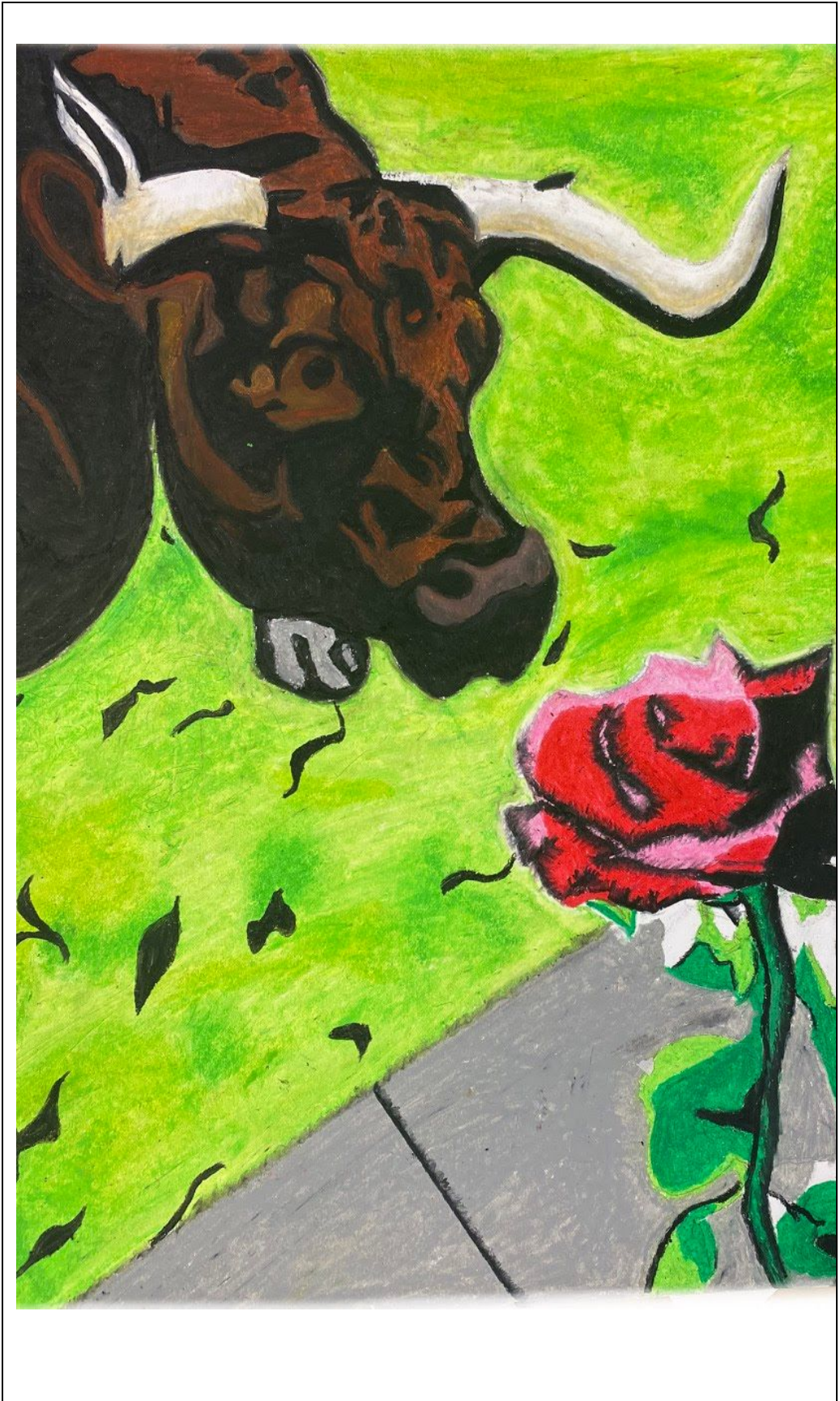
During community engagement, some members offered interesting ideas related to ancestral black history and religion prior to the introduction of traditional religion. Also mentioned multiple times, was memorializing a community member who was lost to gun violence. To start, I settled on meditation. As “The empowered woman” continued to be a suggested theme during community engagement, this design is a piece that evokes the command and power.

The disappearance of once beloved facets of Durham has become inarguably hard to ignore. This mixed media piece captures elements of community staples, those still present and those that are no more. This concept, Channelling (working title) urges visitors to acknowledge the necessity of women as well as the absence of certain cultural landmarks.

With confidence and ability to grapple the concept of community, our subject is in appreciation of what her community has been to her. She holds the strong hand of Durham’s colorful past, and views it as an era of majesty and whimsy. In the final design, her dominant presence will be depicted via energy emanating from the lower part of the canvas, with brighter color schemes to communicate a light-hearted appeal in honor of a Durham era that once was.

3-strand twine was used to add texture and to adhere to the requisite of using reclaimed material.

**In the final draft, the image will be repositioned from landscape to portrait.*



Bus Stop # 5690 - NC 54 at NC 55 (in front of Walgreens)

This location has very diverse ridership. The notion to use a more broad concept that would be applicable to the location resulted in the reference of poetry. This concept is about versatility and references a well-known poem by the late poet and musician, Tupac Shakur. "The Rose That Grew From Concrete" is fitting for this design as it speaks to the common misconceptions of Durham and its community members. Despite its worth and ability to thrive for so many years under the toughest of circumstances, the Bull City wears an unwarranted stigma.

Against traditional positioning, this design depicts a bull that is *not charging*; the city isn't as aggressive as surrounding cities make it out to be. Here it is a gentle creature who marvels at a damaged rose that has managed to blossom from an unlikely place. It seeks to remind community members of the beauty and strength they've maintained under unsavory conditions.

In the final design, the unlikely place could be rough gravel, a stone bed or maybe even dry dirt. The grass offers broad opportunities to implant images that can be camouflaged in the grass. Community members suggested the use of Durham's flag here, so it may be hidden amongst the grass as well. The flag and its seven stars will do well to represent the seven features that define Durham; the arts, commerce and industry, medicine, human relations, sports and recreation, and preservation of Durham's heritage. What images would you like to see placed in the grass. I look forward to your suggestions.



Bus Stop # 6658 - E Main Street at Angier Ave (Ward 1)

This is a fun piece that utilizes acrylic paint, pastels and card stock to simulate the use of reclaimed materials. Actual fabric will be used to clothe the subjects in this piece. The art features kids in a playful manner, amongst the city at play highlighting black joy at a stop that services primarily black riders.

In the final design the kids aim to be the main topic--of equal or more importance than the buildings. Each geometric shape will be used to reflect general architectural designs of neighboring communities and apartment complexes. The second option is to fashion the shapes to resemble the well-known City of Durham landmark buildings like NC Mutual, NCCU, Hayti Heritage Center, Lucky Strike tower, etc..

During community canvassing, community members were asked what aspects of their community they valued or admired most. Their answers were the locations listed above, "Black stuff" ☺, music and black history. To honor the requests, the Bull City hand sign was incorporated. I look forward to learning how you see Durham represented within these shapes.